

Torrance, California
September 8, 1942

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, September 8, 1942, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Everyone present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Babcock moved that the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held August 26, 1942, be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication from the Torrance Civil Service Board was read submitting Classifications of City Employees for approval and stating that the County Commission will soon issue a salary ordinance for the City of Torrance.

Clerk Bartlett presented each member of the Council with a copy of said Classifications. No action was taken.

A communication from the Torrance Civil Service Board was read submitting a resolution authorizing the temporary employment of men who do not meet the requirements of Civil Service Ordinances Nos. 249 and 326, especially in the Fire and Police Departments, in view of the fact that due to the war emergency it is becoming more and more difficult to secure employees for the various departments who can fulfill the qualifications required by the above-mentioned ordinances.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1548

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE RESPECT-
ING CITY EMPLOYEES.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1548 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

In the discussion which ensued, Attorney McCall advised that a resolution cannot change an ordinance; but that in this particular case inasmuch as prospective employees cannot qualify under the requirements of Ordinances Nos. 249 and 326, their employment cannot be governed by said ordinances; and that Resolution No. 1548 is therefore legally in order.

A communication from the National Supply Company was read requesting the removal of two eucalyptus trees on the North side of Carson Street, the first and second trees west of Ferrocarril Avenue, which are restricting the proper operation of their new cooling tower.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the National Supply Company for the removal of two eucalyptus trees on the North side of Carson Street be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the National Supply Company signed by F. J. Carpenter, Assistant Treasurer, was read requesting the City of Torrance to execute quitclaim deed to certain easements in connection with the right-of-way of the Pacific Electric Railway Company known as Lot I, Tract No. 1427, in favor of the Defense Plant Corporation by reason of the fact that the Government has requested said company to obtain quitclaim deeds from all parties interested in the above described easement.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication from The National Supply Company requesting the execution of quitclaim deed to certain easements in connection with the right-of-way of the Pacific Electric Railway Company known as Lot I, Tract No. 1427 in favor of the Defense Plant Corporation be turned over to the City Attorney with instructions to draw up the necessary papers granting quitclaim deed to said property as per request of the National Supply Company. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the Lomita Taxi Service, signed by James W. Alford, was read applying for a taxi license to operate in the City of Torrance and requesting that if license is issued permission be granted to the writer to operate from 1530 Cravens Avenue.

Clerk Bartlett advised that he had a communication from Harvel's Service Station, 1530 Cravens Avenue, granting permission to Mr. Alford to operate his taxi business from said location.

Councilman Powell moved that the requests of James W. Alford of the Lomita Taxi Service for permission to obtain a taxi license and to operate from 1530 Cravens Avenue be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from Fire Chief J. E. McMaster was read enclosing a request from Ivan Kettering for leave of absence from his position as engineer in the Fire Department for the duration of the war pending his enlistment in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Mayor McGuire advised that no action would be necessary on this matter by reason of the fact that proper legislation has been passed which assures the reinstatement after the war of Civil Service employees who enter any branch of the U. S. Service during the present emergency.

A communication from Mrs. Lura Davis, 1522 Crenshaw Boulevard, was read requesting that two eucalyptus trees on the northeast corner of Crenshaw and Sonoma be cut to about twelve feet from the ground.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication from Mrs. Lura Davis be referred to the Street Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from Mr. C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines was read recommending that the contract with B. F. Goodrich Company for the rental and lease of tires for Torrance Municipal busses be signed for a five-year period. The writer also advised that the rate for the rental of said tires has been changed from .0051 to .006 per mile.

A discussion arose in which members of the Council viewed with skepticism the proposed five-year contract.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the tentative contract with the B. F. Goodrich Company for the rental and lease of tires for

Torrance Municipal busses be turned over to the City Attorney for recommendation and report at the next meeting with reference to the contract term. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the WALTERIA Civic Organization was read enclosing a copy of a letter sent by said organization to the Los Angeles County Health Center, 2300 Carson Street, Torrance, California, requesting that an overflowing cesspool on Park Street in WALTERIA be taken care of immediately. The former communication stated that no investigation had been made by the Health Center and therefore asked that the Council see that action is taken in the immediate future.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk be instructed to communicate with the County Health Department stating the conditions of the cesspool at the Park Street, WALTERIA, location and advising that the City Council urges immediate action in regard to remedying the condition. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the Division of Highways addressed to the City Engineer was read authorizing an allocation of not to exceed \$150.00 from the $\frac{1}{4}$ Gas Tax Fund for Streets of Major Importance for the paving of the intersection at Torrance Boulevard and Madrid Avenue to conform with the new grade of the Santa Fe tracks, as part of the proposed improvement plans for Torrance Boulevard. Matter of record.

Clerk Bartlett presented a petition addressed to the City Council signed by sixteen home owners respectfully requesting the repair of Amie Street from Torrance Boulevard to Spencer Street.

City Engineer Jain reported that he had already inspected Amie Street and recommended that it be repaired soon.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer prepare estimates of the cost of repairing Amie Street from Torrance Boulevard to Spencer Street to present at the next meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1549

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST IN
EMERGENCY CALLS OUTSIDE OF THE
CITY LIMITS.

Attorney McCall assured the Council that Resolution No. 1549 was consistent with the new State Law governing action of fire departments during the war emergency.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1549 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$96.00 be made for plumbing fixtures for the buildings in the City Park occupied by the California State Guards.

Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$144.00, plus tax, be made for retreading four 11 x 24 tires on the diesel patrol motor grader which is used in the Street Department.

Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$300.00 be made for road materials for surfacing Eldorado Street between Crenshaw Boulevard and Elm Avenue. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. Oscar Butterfield, City Electrician, be authorized to attend the International Association of Electrical Inspectors' Meeting at Fresno, September 21-23, 1942, with expenses paid. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Councilmen and those whom they designate be authorized to attend the League of California Cities Meeting in Los Angeles from September 21, to 24, 1942, inclusive, with expenses paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

In answer to an inquiry from Mayor McGuire, Attorney McCall advised that the matter of the Perry Mutual Water Co. water well in North Torrance was still in the hands of Don Findley.

City Engineer Jain requested that he be authorized to revert Tract 13122 from city lots to acreage as per request of Kenneth E. Gill, Civil Engineer, made on behalf of Anne Taylor, property owner, who wishes to revert said property in order to sell it more easily.

In the discussion which followed, said discussion relating to the necessary checking of map of above-mentioned property by the County of Los Angeles and City of Torrance, Attorney McCall advised that in reverting property attention should be given to a statute governing same.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to proceed with whatever steps are necessary to revert Tract 13122 from city lots to acreage as per request of Kenneth E. Gill, Civil Engineer, made on behalf of Anne Taylor, owner of said property. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

City Engineer Jain asked for permission to charge the County of Los Angeles a checking fee for his services; and also requested that he be granted permission to authorize the County Surveyor to charge the Subdivider \$15.00 plus 50¢ per lot for the former's portion of the checking services.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to make a minimum charge of \$10.00 for the City's portion of the cost of checking any and all subdivision maps; and that the City Engineer also be granted permission to authorize the County Surveyor to charge the Subdivider \$15.00 plus 50¢ per lot for the former's portion of the checking services. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

City Engineer Jain reported that in order to erect a crossing at Abalone Street and Plaza del Amo an application must be submitted to the State Railroad Commission; and therefore requested authorization to file application for that purpose.

The City Engineer also advised that the City would be expected to assume the cost of constructing the crossing and to maintain the area two feet outside of each rail, and that the railroad company would be expected to maintain the portion within two feet of the outside tracks.

Much discussion regarding the acquisition of materials followed.

In answer to an inquiry regarding the legality of the City Engineer filing application with the Railroad Commission, Attorney McCall suggested a motion to the effect that the City Attorney be authorized to prepare and file a petition before the Railroad Commission for a permit to erect a crossing at Abalone Street and Plaza del Amo in the City of Torrance; whereupon Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Attorney be authorized to prepare and file a petition before the Railroad Commission for a permit to erect a crossing at Abalone Street and Plaza del Amo in the City of Torrance. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

The City Engineer opened a discussion relating to the price and type of traffic striping to be considered for the streets in the City of Torrance in need of same. He discussed at length the "skip" and "beaded" stripe which could be used and advised that Mr. J. H. Ganey, Jr., of Los Angeles, is willing to do the work at a price equal to that charged in previous years.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to enter into a contract on behalf of the City of Torrance with Mr. J. H. Ganey, Jr., of Los Angeles, for traffic striping streets in the City of Torrance as designated by the City Engineer at the unit prices quoted to the City Engineer, said contract not to exceed \$1,000.00, including tax; and that Western Avenue and such other streets designated by the City Engineer be striped with the "beaded" type of stripe at the additional unit price quoted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$80.00 be made for repairs to the engine of Bus No. 103. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Bartlett received a communication by telephone from the Columbia Steel Company requesting that the streets in front of said company be cleaned as soon as possible and stating that said streets are reasonably clear of parked automobiles only at five o'clock in the morning.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of the Columbia Steel Company that the streets in front of said company be cleaned in the near future at five o'clock in the morning be referred to the Street Department for consideration. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

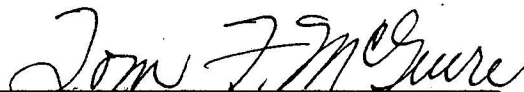
Mr. Charles Elman of 318 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, introduced himself to the Council and audience and registered a complaint regarding the manner in which the City Council is attending to the housing situation. He also criticized the City's bus system and the Council as a whole.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Upon the motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M. to September 15, 1942, at 4:45 P.M.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance